

Zechariah 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

Analysis

Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain—Following the famous 'not by might nor by power' declaration (v. 6), God addresses the obstacles facing temple-builder Zerubbabel. The har haggādōl (הַר הַחֲגָדוֹל, 'great mountain') symbolizes massive opposition—political resistance from Samaritan adversaries (Ezra 4), economic hardship, discouragement, and the seemingly impossible task of completing the temple with meager resources. God mocks the mountain: mī-'attāh (מִי-אַתָּה, 'who are you?')—what are you compared to My Spirit?

Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain—Lemīshōr (לְמִישׁוֹר, 'into level ground') promises divinely-flattened terrain. What human strength couldn't budge, God's Spirit levels effortlessly. **And he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it**—Vehōtsī et-hā'eḇen hārōshāh (וְהוֹצִיא אֶת-הָאֶבֶן הָרֹשֶׁה, 'and he shall bring out the top/capstone'). The 'eḇen rōshāh is the final, crowning stone completing the building. Zerubbabel who laid the foundation (v. 9) will place the capstone. The shouting chēn chēn lāh (חֵן חֵן לָהּ, 'Grace! Grace to it!') celebrates that grace alone accomplished what seemed impossible. This anticipates Christ the cornerstone rejected by builders yet chosen by God (Psalm 118:22; 1 Peter 2:6-7).

Historical Context

Temple work had been halted for 16 years (536-520 BC) due to opposition documented in Ezra 4:1-5, 24. The obstacles seemed insurmountable. Zerubbabel faced enemy accusations to Persian authorities, lack of resources, popular discouragement, and skeptics who despised the modest scale ('day of small things,' v. 10). Yet God promised: the mountain will become a plain, and Zerubbabel will finish what he started. The temple was completed in 516 BC (Ezra 6:15), four years after this prophecy.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What 'great mountains' in your life seem immovable apart from God's Spirit?
2. How does the shouting of 'Grace, grace!' reframe obstacles from achievements earned to gifts received?
3. Why is it significant that the same person (Zerubbabel) lays the foundation and places the capstone?

Interlinear Text

מִי H4310	אֶתְּ הָהָר H859	הַגָּד וְלִפְנֵי H1419	זְרֻבָּבֶל H2216
	mountain H2022	Who art thou O great H1419	before H6440
			Zerubbabel H2216
	לְמִישָׁר H4334	וְהוֹצִיא H3318	אֶת הָאֶבֶן H853
	thou shalt become a plain H4334	and he shall bring forth H3318	the headstone H68
			הָרֹאשׁ הָאֶבֶן H7222
	תִּשָּׂא וְתִקְרָא H8663	יָי וְיָי H2580	לָהּ: H0
	thereof with shoutings H8663	crying Grace H2580	crying Grace H2580

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 51:25 (Parallel theme): Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.

Micah 4:1 (Parallel theme): But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.

Zechariah 4:9 (Parallel theme): The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.

Isaiah 41:15 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff.

Acts 4:11 (Parallel theme): This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Psalms 118:22 (Parallel theme): The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

Psalms 114:4 (Parallel theme): The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs.

1 Peter 2:7 (Parallel theme): Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

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